1	2	3
		horticultural products, setting up of pre-cooling units, cool store, refrigerated van at the place of production to minimize the wastage/losses of horticultural production. Secondly, the retailers/vendors of the perishables, particularly, fruits & vegetables can also take the advantage of this scheme to strengthen the post harvest infrastructure and retail infrastructure so that producer can take directly their produce to retailers and by-pass the intermediaries.
2.	Capital Investment Subside for Construction/Expansion/ Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce	The schemes provide a back ended capital investment subside to the eligible organizations for creation/modernization/ expansion of cold storage @25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost up to a ceiling Rs. 60.00 lakh per project for NE Region.

Recommendations of National Commission on farmers

1938. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers, headed by M.S. Swaminathan, has submitted its third report recently and recommended *inter-alia* the creation of a single market for farm produce by removing all the remaining controls and barriers in inter-state movement of goods and changing the marketing laws; and

(b) if so, the details of other major recommendations/observations made by the Commission and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The other recommendations, *inter-alia,* include expeditious introduction of State VAT in the remaining States; introduction of uniformity in taxes on commodities; withdrawal of octroi and other local taxes; replacement of annual payment of road tax and renewal of fitness certificate by a life-time (at least 10 years) payment system and introduction of a National Permit for plying commercial vehicles anywhere in the country.

The inter-departmental consultations have been initiated on the recommendations made in the report for appropriate action.

Production rate of foodgrains, fruits, etc.

†1939. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production rate of fruits, vegetables, rice, pulses, wheat etc. in the country is not only lower than the average production rate of these items in the world, but the same is even lower than that in China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Brazil, etc.;

(b) if not, the details in this regard alongwith the production rate of above items in each of the countries mentioned above as well as the average production rate in the world;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in addition to lower average production rate of the above items, their production cost is also higher; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The following table shows the production rates of fruits, vegetables, rice pulses and wheat for world, India and other countries as per the information furnished by National Horticulture Board and available in FAO Production Year Book:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.